

plurality of workstations via at least one twisted pair link in a telephone loop plant[,]; and

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[the multimedia central office further including] at least one switch complex operatively associated with the digital switch complex and the at least one twisted pair transceiver;

wherein the multimedia central office transceives [a first plurality of] signals with [a first at least] one of the multimedia workstations interfaced to the public digital telephone network, [wherein the multimedia central office] transceives [a second plurality of] signals with [a second at least] one of the multimedia workstations interfaced to the [at least one] twisted pair link in the telephone loop plant, and [wherein] the [first plurality and the second plurality of] signals [each] include audio signals, video signals, and digital data signals.

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9. (Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein [the first] at least [one and the second at least one] two of the multimedia workstations are located within a common user premise.

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12. (Amended) The system of claim 1 wherein an analog video signal is communicated between the multimedia central office and [one of the second] at least one of the multimedia workstations using a plurality of space division video signals, each of the space division video signals being transmitted over a corresponding one of a plurality of twisted pair links.

13. (Amended) The system of claim 12 wherein the [at least one] twisted pair transceiver [includes] comprises:

a plurality of filters responsive to the analog video signal, each of the filters passing a corresponding band of frequencies contained within the analog video signal

and producing a corresponding filtered signal based thereupon;

at least one frequency shifter[, each of the at least one frequency shifter] for producing a corresponding frequency-shifted signal based upon the filtered signal from a corresponding one of the filters; and

a plurality of transmitter [which transmits] each transmitting the corresponding frequency-shifted signal over a corresponding one of the plurality of twisted pair links.

15. (Amended) The system of claim 12 wherein the analog video signal contains a chrominance signal and a luminance signal, [wherein] the chrominance signal [is] being transmitted over a first one of the twisted pair links and the luminance signal [is] being transmitted over a second one of the twisted pair links.

17. (Amended) The system of claim 12 further comprising a mixer which mixes an audio signal with one of the space-division video signals to form a mixed signal, wherein the mixed signal is transmitted over [the] one of the twisted pair links corresponding to the [one of the] space division video signals.

22. (Amended) A method of providing a plurality of multimedia telecommunication services to a plurality of multimedia workstations at least two of which are distributed among first and second premises, the method comprising [the steps of]:

providing a multimedia central office located at a third premise capable of providing the multimedia telecommunication services;

coupling [a first] at least one of the multimedia workstations to the multimedia central office by the public digital telephone network;

coupling [a second] at least one of the multimedia workstations to the multimedia central office by at least one twisted pair link within a telephone loop plant;

transceiving [a first plurality of] signals between the multimedia central office and the [first at least one of the] multimedia workstations via the public digital telephone network; and

transceiving [a second plurality of] signals between the multimedia central office and the [second at least one of the] multimedia workstations via the telephone loop plant;

wherein the [first plurality and the second plurality of] signals include audio signals, video signals, and digital data signals.

Please cancel claims 43 and 44.

Please add claims 45-50 as follows:

45. (New) A system for providing audio and video telecommunication services among a plurality of premises each operated by a different entity, each premise having at least one computer capable of capturing and reproducing user audio and video, the system comprising:

a common switching subsystem configured to manage audio and video connections among a plurality of communication paths each extending between at least one of the plurality of premises and the switching subsystems; and

a plurality of physical links each dedicated to providing one of the plurality of communication paths between one of the plurality of premises and the switching subsystems.

46. (New) The system of claim 45 further comprising:

at least one shared resource accessible to each of the plurality of premises.

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47. (New) The system of claim 46 wherein the shared resource is selected from the group consisting of public phone lines, access equipment, codec, video storage device, conference bridge, and access multiplexer.

48. (New) The system of claim 46 wherein the plurality of physical links includes at least a telephone loop plant having at least one twisted pair link, the system further comprising:

a twisted pair of transceiver operatively coupled to the telephone loop plant for transceiving audio and video signals with at least one of the plurality of premises.

49. (New) The system of claim 48 wherein the plurality of links further includes a public digital telephone network, the system further comprising:

a digital switch complex operatively coupled to the public digital telephone network to transceive audio and video signals with at least one of the plurality of premises; and

a switch complex operatively associated with the digital switch complex and the twisted pair of transceiver to control signal transceiving.

50. (New) A method for providing audio and video telecommunication services among a plurality of premises each operated by a different entity and having at least one computer capable of capturing and reproducing user audio and video, the method comprising:

managing audio and video connections among a plurality of communication paths each extending between one of the plurality of premises and a common switching subsystem; and

linking each of the plurality of premises to the common switching subsystem via a physical connection dedicated to communicating the user audio and video.

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